

Expression of Condolence for Charles Pascal by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Ausma Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Elliott Pascal on April 24, 2023.

Charles (Chuck) Pascal was a beloved husband, dedicated father, devoted educator, respected civil servant, an architect of early learning policy - and relentless preacher on the art and science of baseball. He earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Michigan. Upon graduation, he taught at McGill University where he was most proud of helping to create the McGill Community Family Centre, a full-service child care centre that was the first of its kind in Canadian universities.

Charles's career over the next 40 years spanned education, public administration and social activism. Following his time at McGill, Charles accepted a professorship at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education where his leadership saw him elevated to Chair of his Department and head of Graduate Studies. He then went on to become president of Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Charles always believed that a life without cause was a life without effect. He found many causes to champion, foremost among them, early childhood education. He served the Ontario government in many capacities, including as Deputy Minister of Education.

Charles then left the government to become Executive Director of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, a position he described as 'the greatest job in the world'. It was during this time that he and the Hon. Roy Romanow led work on the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, now situated at the University of Waterloo. After leading the Foundation's campaign for better early childhood education, Premier Dalton McGuinty appointed Charles as Special Advisor on Early Learning. His ground breaking report, 'Our Best Future in Mind', was a plan of action to implement full day kindergarten in Ontario.

Charles received honorary degrees from several universities. In 2015 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. Above all else, Charles was devoted to his wife, children, and family.

The City clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Charles Pascal's family, friends and associates.

May 10, 2023